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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 1, 2005

The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairwoman Majoras:

We are writing as members of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the antitrust laws, to ask that you commence an immediate investigation into reports of price gouging in gasoline markets across the nation.

There are numerous reports of massive increases in gasoline prices. For example, today's Washington Post reports price increases of as much as 88 cents per gallon in a single day. Some stations in Georgia are reported to be charging as much as \$6 a gallon. In Illinois, prices are reported to have shot up 50 cents per gallon overnight, and the state attorney general received more than 500 reports of price gouging.

These increases go far beyond anything justified or relating to the market disruptions caused by Hurricane Katrina. As a result, we would ask the FTC to look into the various causes of the recent increases, identify the price gouging by opportunistic sellers and take any and all actions to end price gouging immediately.

You have examined similar issues for Congress in the past after other periods of price increases, and we find it essential that you complete an analysis for us today based on current market conditions.¹ As time is of the essence, we would like to receive a status report on any preliminary findings as promptly as possible, but no later than September 15, 2005.

Please respond to the Judiciary Committee Minority Office, 2142 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, telephone number, 202-225-6504, fax number, 202-225-4423.

¹See FTC Issues Report on Midwest Gasoline Price Investigation (March 30, 2001).

Sincerely,

John Gungor Jr.
Mindy Mullan



Phil Johnson
Rick Boucher

Zoe Lofgren

Jerrold Nadler

Linda J. Sincere

Donna W. Schultz

Robert Wexler

Charles Hall

Howard Berman

William Delahunt

cc: Honorable Thomas B. Leary
Honorable Pamela Jones Harbour
Honorable Jon Leibowitz

Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary